

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION ADOPTED AT THE SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 10TH, 1923.

The Administrative Council have pleasure in submitting their Report on the activities of the Corporation during the period which has elapsed since the First General Meeting, which was held on February 8th, 1922, after having been adjourned from January 24th in order to enable the majority of members to attend.

The period now brought under review has been one of some difficulty, since it was only in July last that the passage by Parliament of the Cotton Industry Act regularised the position with regard to the contributions from the cotton industry to the funds of the Corporation. The general support accorded to this measure by all sections of the trade emphasised the importance that the industry attaches to the objects for which the Corporation has been formed, and its passage into law has placed the Corporation in a position to frame schemes covering at all events the period of five years during which the Act remains in force. The development of cotton growing in the Empire, by its very nature, necessitates the formulation of plans which, however successful, cannot bring their full return in bales of cotton until some years after their initiation. The activities of the Corporation up to the present have, therefore, been limited to such proposals as could be undertaken immediately, and although more far-reaching schemes have received careful thought, it was recognised that their execution must await the time when, by the passage of the Cotton Industry Act, the Corporation's income would be approximately known and assured for some years in advance.

Since the last General Meeting the Council have suffered a severe loss in the deeply regretted death of their first Chairman, Mr. J. W. McConnel. They fully recognise the value of his unremitting enthusiasm and courage in the face of many difficulties. These qualities proved important factors in providing the stimulus which has now ultimately led to the establishment of the Corporation upon a firm foundation, and the Council lament the fact that he did not live to see the attainment of the object to which he so generously devoted his time and energy.

In spite of the limitations mentioned above to which the work of the Corporation has hitherto necessarily been subject, a considerable amount of work has been accomplished during the past year. This has been rendered possible by the generosity of the Government in handing over their contribution to the funds of the Corporation as soon as the Royal Charter was granted, in spite of the fact that the reciprocal support from the cotton industry was not then an accomplished fact. The thanks of the Corporation are due to the Government for the assistance thus afforded to them in beginning their task.

FINANCE.

It was decided that it would be most convenient if the Corporation's financial year commenced on April 1st. The accounts were, therefore, audited for the period January 1st, 1922, to March 31st, 1923. A copy of the Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Account for this period will be found attached to this Report.

(i.) *Government Grant.*—It will be seen that the net income derived from the Government Grant during that period of 15 months amounted to £36,006, representing about £44,000 gross. The investment of the grant was made in March, 1922. Of this £17,457 were expended. During the period covered by the audit only such projects could be undertaken as required immediate action, but during the past few months the Corporation felt that the passage was assured of the legislation necessary to secure their existence for a period of years, and further

proposals were provisionally adopted which involve considerable and recurring expenditure in the various Dominions and Dependencies. The rate of expenditure has latterly increased, therefore, and it is already becoming clear that to provide from within the Empire an adequate and rapid increase in the supply of raw cotton will strain the Corporation's available resources.

(ii.) *Levy*.—After various vicissitudes the Cotton Industry Act received the Royal Assent on July 18th, from and including which date a levy of 6d. per 500 lbs. gross is payable by law on all raw cotton purchased by spinners in Great Britain during the next five years. As a basis on which to estimate approximately the income of the Corporation it may be stated that the sum which would have been realised from this source during the cotton season just ended, namely, August 1st, 1922, to July 31st, 1923, had the levy been in force, would have totalled about £66,800. To this must be added the annual income accruing from the Government Grant, the gross yield from which is estimated next year to be about £52,000, while in addition urgent representations will be made to the proper authorities to secure exemption from tax for the Corporation's income from both sources.

As members are aware, the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations kindly undertook the collection of a voluntary levy which was commenced on September 1st, 1921. The amount received during the period covered by the Balance Sheet was £64,582, whilst the total collected from the commencement until the end of June last amounted with interest to £87,279. The sum paid voluntarily during the first 17 days of July until the Act was passed has still to be determined. The greater part of the sums received has been invested in Treasury Bonds, of which £55,000 worth were purchased. The balance remains on deposit pending the settlement of the position regarding the voluntary contributions, the Finance Sub-Committee having recommended to the Executive that it would be wiser not to invest the money at present in view of the uncertainty of the financial situation.

A circular letter was sent out to all spinners on August 17th, drawing their attention to the fact that the levy had now

become payable by law, and asking them whether they preferred to pay their contributions through their brokers or direct to the Corporation. In addition, the Corporation felt that it was only fair that those firms who had paid the levy voluntarily should be placed on the same basis as those who would only pay from the date of the passage of the Cotton Industry Act. Such firms were therefore notified that their voluntary contributions would be repaid, if desired, but the hope was expressed that firms would allow them to be retained as donations to the Corporation. Up to the time of preparing this report firms controlling 8,947,922 spindles have submitted claims for repayment amounting to £18,203; the owners of 1,362,562 spindles have either stated that they did not pay the voluntary levy, or have made no mention of repayment in their reply to the circular letter, and may thus be considered as not desiring to claim, or as not having paid; while firms controlling 2,150,668 spindles have stated that it is not their intention to claim repayment of the sums paid voluntarily.

Attached as an appendix to this Report is a rough estimate of expenditure either allocated, or likely to be incurred during the current financial year, which was submitted to and adopted by the Board of Trustees in June last. At that time it was impossible to submit any accurate forecast of the financial requirements of the Corporation during the current year, seeing that their proposals could not be formulated until their income was known and assured, and it must therefore be regarded as provisional only.

The following short summary of the action taken or decided upon in the several cotton-growing countries of the Empire, will inform members of the directions in which the activities of the Corporation have been exercised since the last General Meeting.

INDIA.

The Indian Central Cotton Committee has now been placed on a sound financial footing by the passage into law on March 16th, 1923, of the Act to provide funds for the work

of the Committee, by imposing a cess of 4 annas a bale on all raw cotton used by Indian mills, or exported.

The Corporation is represented on the Committee by Mr. W. Roberts, who was kind enough to accept nomination for one year.

A letter was addressed by the Corporation to the Committee asking in what ways the Corporation could assist in the work upon which they are engaged. In reply the following three directions in which help might be given have been indicated by the Committee:—

(a) By the provision of reliable information as to cotton legislation in force or under consideration in various countries, particularly those within the British Empire and in Egypt;

(b) By stimulating the sale of Indian cottons in Great Britain;

(c) By asking the Liverpool Cotton Association to consider the possibility of providing a Futures Contract against which East Indian cottons would be tenderable.

Steps are being taken to help the Indian Committee in the directions suggested. Copies of legislation relating to cotton growing, marketing, and ginning, are being collected in order that they may be sent to the Committee. Arrangements have been made whereby 10 bales of the most suitable Indian growths will be consigned by the Committee to the British Cotton Growing Association, who have kindly undertaken to bring the cotton to the notice of Lancashire brokers and spinners. With regard to the provision of a Futures Contract for Indian cottons, the Liverpool Cotton Association had already appointed a special Committee to consider the question comprehensively before the request from the Indian Central Cotton Committee was received. This Committee has not yet reported.

In pursuance of the policy of appointing Sub-Committees to submit recommendations to the Executive Committee in respect to matters affecting cotton production in the several parts of the Empire, the Executive Committee have appointed an Indian Sub-Committee, upon which they have been

fortunate in securing the services of several gentlemen prominently interested in cotton production in that country.

It may not be out of place here, in view of the fact that many of the aims of the Central Cotton Committee coincide with those of the Corporation, to summarise the functions which they propose to discharge.

The Committee will advise the Government of India and local Governments on questions of cotton policy, whilst they will suggest to the Government and the trade suitable measures to meet any changes which may occur in the cotton growing tracts. It is also hoped to deal with the question of the trade classification of the different growths, to assist in obtaining authoritative valuations of, and markets for, new varieties, and to act as a bureau for the dissemination of information.

Much valuable work has already been performed by the Committee on these lines, and the passing of the Cotton Transport Act should help towards maintaining the quality of the better growths of cotton. The proposals for action in the immediate future include Technological Research and the provision of grants for Agricultural Research to several of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture. In addition, the Committee propose to contribute largely towards the establishment of a Central Research Institute of Plant Industry, at Indore.

AUSTRALIA.

Although the possibilities of extensive cotton production in the Commonwealth would appear to be considerable, the prospects of any rapid development are limited by the present lack of labour to assist in the preliminary preparation of the ground and the harvesting of the crop. It seems likely, therefore, that, for the immediate future, the area placed under cotton, must be confined to that which the colonist and his family can cultivate and pick without hired labour.

A Cotton Specialist in the person of Colonel G. Evans, C.I.E., lately Director of Agriculture, Bengal, has been sent to Queensland by the Corporation. Colonel Evans works under the immediate control of the Ministry for Agriculture, but his salary is paid by the Corporation, and he has the right of reporting to the Corporation through his Minister. Reports so

far received are encouraging as to the possibility of cotton growing in Queensland, at all events in small plots which can be cultivated and harvested by a farmer and his family without assistance.

By arrangement between the Governments of Queensland and Western Australia, Colonel Evans visited the latter State on his journey to Brisbane. During the short time he had at his disposal his attention was chiefly concentrated upon the possibilities of the North West and Kimberley Divisions. His report on these areas has been sent out to members of Council, and should prove of considerable value to the Government and colonists of Western Australia, in view of his recommendation that cotton should be grown experimentally in that State before its cultivation is undertaken extensively. It is hoped, therefore, that the experimental tests which have been recommended will be carried out before settlers are encouraged to take up a crop to which they are strangers.

The Government were advised to appoint, if possible, a special Tropical Agriculturist to undertake these experiments, and Colonel Evans, in company with the Commissioner for the North-West, selected what he considered to be a suitable experimental area in the Kimberley Reservation.

SOUTH AFRICA.

In order to gain an insight into the possibilities for cotton growing in the Union of South Africa, the Executive Committee decided to send out Mr. G. F. Keatinge, C.I.E., late Director of Agriculture, Bombay, to report on the conditions there. His report has recently been published and sent out to members of the Corporation.

This Report has formed the basis of considerable thought and discussion by the Executive and South Africa Committees, and it is hoped that means will be found to carry into effect the majority of Mr. Keatinge's recommendations. As a first step the Corporation have offered to the Union Government to appoint a small expert staff to work under the Department of Agriculture, but with the right to report to the Corporation through the Minister. This offer has been accepted, and General

Smuts has been good enough to consent to discuss with the Corporation the means whereby cotton production in South Africa may be increased, while he is in London this autumn.

With a view to consolidating the position in Natal in the first instance, it was decided that Major H. F. Hall, D.S.O., a member of the South Africa Sub-Committee of the Corporation, who has had extensive experience of business and transport problems in the Sudan, and Eastern and Southern Africa, should be sent out to the Union on a temporary mission. Major Hall sailed on September 28th.

The Corporation learnt with great satisfaction that the extension of the railway from Somkele northwards through Zululand is contemplated in the near future.

BRITISH WEST INDIES.

(a) *Research in St. Vincent.*—The research on the genetics of Sea Island cotton inaugurated by Dr. S. C. Harland has been carried on since his return to England in 1920. The research worker sent out by the Corporation to take over the work from Dr. Harland was unhappily compelled to resign his post through ill-health after a few months' work, but the continuity of the research was not interrupted, as Sir Francis Watts, the Imperial Commissioner for Agriculture, very kindly seconded Mr. T. G. Mason, the botanist on his staff, for this work until another man could be found. Mr. L. H. Burd, B.A. (Cantab.), has since been appointed as research worker, and he arrived in St. Vincent in November of last year. Accounts of some results obtained by him will appear in the Corporation's Journal. The Corporation make a grant of £200 per annum for incidental expenses in connection with this research work.

(b) *The Agricultural College, Trinidad.*—The College was opened in October of last year for the purpose of giving a thorough training in tropical agriculture to students intending to become tropical planters, investigators, or experts in different branches of agricultural science or technology. Accommodation is also provided for graduates of other institutions to conduct research work in connection with tropical agricultural problems.

The Corporation are of opinion that the College will provide an opportunity whereby officers selected for service in cotton-growing countries may receive that training in general tropical agriculture which is so essential to them before taking up their duties. It is recognised that cotton growing is one of a series of farming operations, and can only be successfully conducted if those responsible have received a sound training in the general principles of agriculture and agricultural rotations as conducted in the tropics, in addition to special instruction relating to cotton itself. At the West Indian Agricultural College facilities will be available for providing such training, and special attention is also to be given to instruction on the administrative side of official agricultural work. On these grounds the Corporation have agreed to contribute £500 a year for two years to the funds of the College. The Director of the Corporation has been co-opted as the Corporation's representative upon the Governing Body of the College, and men sent out by the Corporation for special training, or to do advanced post-graduate work, will be received in limited numbers without payment of fees.

The Corporation availed themselves of the facilities offered by the College for the training of students by sending one of last year's post-graduate students for special training under the Professor of Entomology, and four of the holders of this year's Studentships are to carry out their work there during the current academical year.

UGANDA.

It was hoped that the cotton crop harvested during the current year would total approximately 100,000 bales of lint, but unfavourable climatic conditions have reduced the actual output considerably; nevertheless reports have been received to the effect that at least 89,000 bales will be exported. This is the largest crop so far harvested in the Protectorate. Early in the year it was feared that the rail and steamer transport would not be adequate to carry the expected exports of lint and cotton seed without considerable delay. The Corporation, therefore, consulted the Colonial Office on this question, and were assured that all the preparations which it was possible to

make would be set on foot immediately in order to cope with the anticipated traffic. The question of the Cotton Export Tax was also considered by the East Africa Sub-Committee, and whilst it was realised that the question of the removal of this tax was one which could not be considered apart from the general financial policy of the Protectorate, the Colonial Office were informed that it was the hope of the Corporation that it might be found possible in the near future to devote at least some portion of the revenue collected thereby to services intimately connected with the cotton growing industry.

The Uganda Government have asked if the Corporation would present a number of ox-drawn ploughs to the Agricultural Department. Members of the Corporation will be aware that the natives of parts of Uganda have adopted the use of ox-ploughs, thus increasing materially the efficiency of native labour. The cost of these ploughs is, however, beyond the reach of the mass of native cultivators, and the Director of Agriculture reported that he wished to be in a position to lend ploughs to the natives in backward areas. He considered that with some 200 or 300 ploughs available a considerable impetus would be given to the cultivation of cotton and food crops, as there is now an efficient native ploughing staff under the supervision of European instructors. On the advice of the East Africa Sub-Committee it was decided that such a number of ploughs and spares should be presented to the Uganda Government as did not exceed in cost, including the transport, a total of £500. Ninety ploughs with adequate spare parts have been accordingly presented by the Corporation to the Uganda Government.

During the period under review the Director of the Corporation had the opportunity of discussing the needs of the Agricultural Department of the Protectorate with both the Director and the Deputy Director of Agriculture.

SUDAN.

Owing to various difficulties, for the greater part financial, the construction of the Blue Nile Irrigation Works was practically suspended early in 1922. Happily these difficulties

were gradually overcome, and in June of last year the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was able to assure a deputation representative of all sections of the cotton industry, that the project would be completed.

A further important step towards the development of the Sudan has been taken in the completion of the financial arrangements for the construction of a railway to tap the Kassala District. This railway will run through Kassala to Thamian on the existing line to Port Sudan, thus affording an outlet to the sea at this port. Cotton of excellent quality has been grown for some years in the delta of the River Gash which flows through the centre of the Kassala area, but lack of transport facilities has prevented the production of any large quantity. The Treasury, on the recommendation of the Trade Facilities Committee, have now guaranteed the Kassala Railway Company to the extent of £1,500,000. Cotton development will be in the hands of the Kassala Cotton Company, which, working in partnership with the Sudan Government and the native cultivator, will ensure that produce is ready for transportation as soon as the railway is open to traffic.

The Corporation played a considerable part in the negotiations which led up to these developments, and hold a financial interest in the Cotton Company to the extent of £100,000 6 per cent. Debentures and £5,000 worth of Ordinary Shares. There is every reason to expect a considerable increase in cotton production from this area within a few years of the completion of the railway. Sir Frederick Lugard has been nominated by the Corporation as their representative on the Board of Directors of the Company.

In still another direction the Corporation have been able to be of service to the Sudan.

With the approach of the completion of the Blue Nile dam and the Gezira Irrigation Works, together with the impending opening up of the Kassala district, the Sudan has reached the beginning of a new stage of its economic development. The Sudan Government have accordingly decided to appoint a Commission to advise them on the programme of agricultural research which should be followed. On the suggestion of the

Corporation Sir John Russell, F.R.S., the Director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, and Dr. Martin Leake, Director of Agriculture of the Central Provinces of India, have been invited, and have consented, to carry out this work. It is confidently expected that Sir John Russell's expert knowledge of the science of the soil, together with Dr. Leake's specialised experience of cotton cultivation and the conditions necessary for its development, will result in a report that should prove of the greatest value to the Sudan Government. The Commission will commence their investigations early in November.

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Mr. R. C. Wood, the Corporation's Cotton Specialist in the Territory, has been able to carry out valuable work during his 14 months' residence there. His energies have chiefly been directed towards the breeding of a number of pure strains of cotton suitable for distribution in the chief cotton areas. His time has been divided between Mpanganya, the chief cotton experimental station established during the German occupation of the country, and Morogoro, a township on the Central Railway some 130 miles from Dar-es-Salaam. Mpanganya being near the mouth of the Rufiji River is practically at sea level, whilst Morogoro is situated at an altitude of about 1,500 feet above the sea. By carrying out experiments at both these stations it is hoped to secure supplies of seed of good quality cotton which will be suitable on the one hand for the low-lying districts near the sea coast, and on the other hand for the up-country districts which have an altitude similar to that at Morogoro.

Lack of adequate means of communication between Dar-es-Salaam and Mpanganya has caused Mr. Wood to decide on making Morogoro his headquarters, and a 3-roomed house has been purchased there on behalf of the Corporation. During the present cotton season, which is now drawing to a close, Mr. Wood has left Mr. Nattrass, his Assistant, a former holder of one of the Corporation's Studentships, in charge at Mpanganya when absent himself at Morogoro. At the request

of Mr. Wood a second Assistant was appointed by the Corporation, and sent out to the Territory in July.

The Director of Agriculture has established cotton markets which are open for stated periods on specified dates throughout the areas in which the natives have taken up cotton cultivation. The Corporation's officers were able last year to be of considerable assistance in attending the cotton markets in the Rufiji area. Mr. Wood drew attention in his first quarterly report to the necessity for the provision of sheds in which the cotton, after having been purchased from the native cultivators, could be stored whilst it was being sorted and prepared for transportation to the ginnery. It is satisfactory to learn that the Government have set aside a sum of money this season for the erection of temporary buildings for this purpose.

Another direction in which the Cotton Specialist was able to be of assistance to the Director of Agriculture was by compiling a note for circulation amongst the Agricultural Officers of the Territory outlining shortly the methods to be employed in cotton selection in their districts. A small quantity of literature and equipment was sent out by the Corporation for distribution amongst these Officers.

Members of the Corporation will be aware that the Germans established an important research station at Amani near the railway which runs from Tanga to Moshi, in the hope that this station would serve the German African Colonies in the way in which the Institute at Pusa serves India. The Colonial Office and the Local Government have had the future of this Institute at Amani under consideration, and in order to ascertain whether research work on cotton could satisfactorily be carried out there Mr. Wood was instructed to visit this Station and report upon it. After careful consideration it has been decided that the Corporation should not at present make a grant for the re-establishment of the Amani Institute.

The Director of Agriculture sent in proposals for a substantial increase in the Agricultural Department with the aid of a grant from the Corporation. These proposals were also endorsed by the Corporation's Cotton Specialist. They

involved an increase in the estimates for the Department for the financial year 1923/24 by £13,000 over the amount sanctioned for 1922, and the Director of Agriculture suggested that the Corporation should contribute £8,000, which was approximately one-fourth of the total estimated expenditure of the Department for the year.

These proposals were very carefully considered by the East Africa Sub-Committee, and the Executive Committee were recommended to offer to make a grant during the current year not exceeding £5,000 for the purpose of enabling the Agricultural Department of the Territory to be expanded on the lines suggested by the Director of Agriculture. This recommendation was adopted by the Executive Committee, and the Government of Tanganyika Territory have been asked to submit a revised scheme based on such a grant from the Corporation.

The answer from the Local Government is not yet to hand.

NYASALAND.

It was reported last year that Mr. H. C. Sampson, C.I.E., Director of Agriculture, Madras, had made a short tour in Nyasaland in 1921 on behalf of the Corporation. The Governor of Nyasaland stated that Mr. Sampson's services had been of the utmost value, and asked whether it would be possible for him to return to the country for an extended period. Mr. Sampson has now retired from the Indian Agricultural Service and accepted service under the Corporation. He returned to Nyasaland in January last, taking with him as an Assistant, Mr. H. C. Ducker, one of the Corporation's post-graduate Students.

Mr. Sampson was asked to submit as soon as possible after his arrival in the Protectorate a scheme for assisting the Department of Agriculture in extending cotton production. He has reported that the first step necessary is the foundation of a small Experiment Station, which would be devoted to cotton. The need for this station was fully realised by the Local Government, and a scheme was submitted to the East Africa Sub-Committee of the Corporation involving a capital expenditure of £1,600 and recurrent charges of £880 per annum. Of these expenses the Nyasaland Government agreed

to pay one-third of the capital outlay and to make an annual grant of £300 towards the recurrent charges, whilst in addition they undertook to supply the land for the Station and to link it up with a main road, provided that the new road to be built did not exceed five miles in length. The establishment of this Experiment Station was recommended to the Executive Committee, who approved Mr. Sampson's proposals and agreed to provide the funds required to carry them into effect.

In order to keep in touch with the latest developments in the work on cotton breeding which has been carried out in the United States, Mr. Sampson asked to be allowed to proceed for a short time to America in order to visit the chief Experiment Stations in the cotton belt. This request was sanctioned, and Mr. Sampson left Nyasaland early in July, a short time before the crop was due to be harvested. His tour in America will occupy some six weeks, and he will then return to Nyasaland in time for the next season's sowing.

Mr. Sampson reported that the success of cotton production in Nyasaland on a large scale was being jeopardised by the depredations of the red boll worm. He pointed out that it was not possible for the Government Entomologist to deal with the whole of the entomological work necessary in the Protectorate, and asked that an Entomologist should be appointed by the Corporation to specialise on cotton pests, and in particular to carry out research upon the red boll worm. Accordingly Mr. C. B. R. King was appointed and sailed for the Protectorate in July last. Mr. King was another of the Corporation's Students and spent his Studentship year at the West Indian Agricultural College, where he had the advantage of being able to study under the Professor of Entomology, Mr. H. A. Ballou, whose work on the entomology of cotton pests is well known.

Shortly before leaving Africa, Mr. Sampson visited the Fort Jameson District in North-Eastern Rhodesia in order to explore the possibilities for cotton in that area. In his report he states that he considers that cotton of good quality can be grown in that area up to an altitude of 3,200 feet, which is somewhat higher than the height at which cotton can be grown successfully in Nyasaland. Mr. Sampson decided that a

considerable quantity of cotton could be produced round Fort Jameson, but that at present the cost of transportation renders the success of the industry uncertain. The damage done by the red boll worm in this area also is very considerable, and it is hoped that the researches of the Corporation's Entomologist in Nyasaland will give results which will be of value to the Fort Jameson planters in combating this pest.

NIGERIA.

Owing very largely to the work of the British Cotton Growing Association, the cultivation of cotton in Nigeria has made steady progress during the last few years. With a view to assisting in this development the West Africa Sub-Committee of the Corporation took advantage of the presence in England on leave of Mr. Faulkner, the Director of Agriculture, to confer with him as to the ways in which the Corporation might lend their aid. Mr. Faulkner gave it as his opinion that with a larger Agricultural Staff the exportable quantity of cotton could be considerably increased during the next few years. He accordingly submitted proposals to the Corporation for the provision of a number of agriculturists who should devote practically their whole time to work on cotton. A scheme was drawn up and submitted to the Nigerian Government which provided for the appointment by the Corporation of a Cotton Specialist and five Assistant Officers to work mainly in the Northern Province on seed selection and the supervision of the cultivation and marketing of cotton. Mr. Faulkner, on his part, gave his assurance that if the scheme were adopted the present members of the Nigerian Agricultural Department would devote no less of their time to cotton cultivation than they have hitherto. These proposals are still under consideration.

Considerable areas in Nigeria which are suitable for cotton, in districts near the railway where transport facilities are assured, are either uninhabited or very sparsely populated; accordingly the Nigerian Government were asked whether it would be possible to transfer natives from the more densely populated areas to the neighbourhood of the railway, thus forming "Cotton Colonies." It was suggested that the Corporation

might subsidise for the first year the natives so moved, who would be accompanied by their families, and that compounds should be built for them. In transmitting this suggestion to the Nigerian Government it was made clear that in the event of the scheme meeting with approval it could only be carried out if it could be regarded as certain that ultimately this scheme of land settlement would be self-supporting. At present, however, the Nigerian Government are unable to support this proposal, nor are they prepared to give an assurance that such "Colonies" would be likely to become self-supporting. The thanks of the Corporation are due to Sir Frederick Lugard and Mr. H. S. Goldsmith for the valuable advice which they have given during the consideration of these proposals.

JOURNAL.

The question of the publication of a Journal has occupied the attention of the Intelligence and Library Sub-Committee of the Corporation, and they have recommended to the Executive Committee that a Quarterly Journal should be published. This Journal will be issued free of charge to members of the Corporation, to the Agricultural Departments of the different cotton-growing Colonies and Dependencies, and to organisations and firms associated with the Corporation; a small charge will be made for copies sold to the general public. It is intended that articles accepted for publication shall be paid for, and it is hoped that contributions will be received both from persons engaged in tropical agriculture and from those interested in the cotton industry.

One of the chief aims of this Journal will be the dissemination of details regarding the latest developments in the science of cotton cultivation, thus enabling the Corporation to act as a clearing-house of intelligence collected from the different Dominions and Colonies, and to keep Directors of Agriculture, and others engaged in cotton growing, in touch with problems in which they are interested. In addition, statistics will be published as to the cotton crops in different parts of the world, and it is intended also to include reports on various samples of cotton, accompanied, if possible, by the results of spinning tests.

Finally, it is hoped that this Journal may serve as a link between spinners and growers, giving them a better knowledge of one another's requirements and difficulties.

It was decided by the Committee that it would be necessary to have an Editor with technical knowledge, and Dr. J. C. Willis, M.A., Sc.D., F.R.S., was asked if he would accept the position. Dr. Willis was formerly Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Ceylon, where he organised an Experiment Station for Cotton. He also reported officially on Agriculture in the Federated Malay States, and upon Cotton in Southern India, and has made a tour through part of the American cotton belt. These qualifications, and the further experience gained by Dr. Willis in his capacity as Editor for over six years of the "Tropical Agriculturist," justify the Council in their view that they are fortunate in having secured Dr. Willis' services as Editor of the Journal. It is hoped that the first number may be issued during the next few months.

STUDENTSHIPS.

The question of the provision of adequately trained men for the purpose of supplementing the Agricultural Departments of cotton-growing parts of the Empire, has engaged the careful attention of the Corporation through their Research and Training Sub-Committee. They are aware that, in addition to work that can only be carried out by men possessing high scientific qualifications, many of the duties of the agricultural staff in cotton-growing Colonies are largely connected with the training and supervision of native instructors, and with the marketing and grading of the crop. While advanced training in science is not directly required for such work, the Sub-Committee have pointed out that if partially trained men are employed their promotion to more responsible work would be difficult because they would be lacking in the fundamental principles on which is based the expert knowledge which their duties in a senior post would require. For appointments for which such knowledge is required, therefore, the Corporation propose to select only thoroughly qualified men who have received a sound scientific training, including a year's post-graduate work. By this means the Corporation hope in time

materially to improve the standard of men engaged in promoting cotton cultivation in the Dominions and Colonies, and this cannot fail to be reflected in the quality and yield of the crops produced under their superintendence.

As a preliminary step towards carrying out this policy the Empire Cotton Growing Committee of the Board of Trade offered a small number of post-graduate Studentships, and this course has been followed and extended by the Corporation. Of the four men elected to Studentships in 1921-22, one has been appointed to the Agricultural Staff of the Nigerian Government; a second was appointed by the Corporation as assistant to Mr. Wood, and proceeded with him to Tanganyika; while a third, on completion of his Studentship year, spent two months in the laboratories of the British Cotton Industry Research Association, and was appointed as assistant to Mr. Sampson, with whom he proceeded to Nyasaland. The thanks of the Corporation are due to the Council of the British Cotton Industry Research Association for their courtesy in offering to give facilities to any of the Corporation's Students to work in their laboratories at the Shirley Institute. Full advantage will be taken in future of this offer, and close co-operation in other ways will be maintained between the two bodies.

For the academical year 1922-23 the Corporation elected six Students. Of these, four carried out their work at Cambridge, whilst one went to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, and another to the West Indian Agricultural College, Trinidad. These men have now completed their Studentship year, and three of them, having taken service with the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, have proceeded to the Sudan. A fourth, Mr. King, has been sent to Nyasaland as stated above, as an Entomologist under the Corporation. A fifth, who was still too young to take up work in the tropics, has had his Studentship extended for a further year, which will be spent at the West Indian Agricultural College.

In addition to the above, a Studentship of the value of £150 for one year was awarded to Mr. E. S. Eldridge, a candidate recommended by Sir Francis Watts, in order that he might do a year's work at the West Indian Agricultural

College, and thus broaden the training he received whilst on the staff of the Agricultural Department of Antigua. On the completion of his Studentship year Mr. Eldridge was appointed Farm Manager in charge of the Corporation's Cotton Experiment Station in Nyasaland.

Owing to the scarcity of trained men, the Corporation decided this year to appoint 12 Students if suitable candidates presented themselves for election, and to offer two types of Studentship, viz., Senior and Junior.

Candidates for the Senior Studentships were required to have taken a University degree, and to have done one year's research work, or special training.

Candidates for Junior Studentships were not required to possess a degree, though, in general, preference would naturally be given to those who had thus qualified themselves. The grant of a Junior Studentship is intended to assist candidates who are unable on financial grounds to complete the full training required of candidates for Senior Studentships.

This year three appointments to Junior and eight to Senior Studentships have been made.

Of the Senior men four will spend their Studentship year at the West Indian Agricultural College, Trinidad, one will study at the Rothamsted Experimental Station, and three are going to Cambridge.

Of the Juniors two men will proceed to Cambridge, and one, an Entomologist, will study at the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

The Corporation have appointed Mr. F. L. Engledow, M.A., Fellow of St. John's College, and Assistant to the Professor of Agricultural Botany, as Official Adviser to the Corporation's Students at Cambridge.

RESEARCH.

A small Sub-Committee, consisting of Professor Farmer, Sir John Russell, Professor Weiss and Professor Wood, very kindly undertook to draw up for the Corporation a Memorandum on the facilities for the study at the Universities of scientific subjects of importance to cotton growing. This

memorandum dealt with the possibilities of developing the study of Genetics, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Mycology, Plant Physiology, and Soil Physics, so as to make them contribute usefully to the solution of cotton growers' problems. The memorandum recommended that the Corporation should make grants to the following Universities and Institutions to enable them each to retain the services of a specialist who would devote himself to research in one or other of the subjects named, and who would deal with applications for advice from scientific advisers in cotton growing countries:—

(1) The Botanical Department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology;

(2) The Plant Genetics Department of the School of Agriculture of the University of Cambridge;

(3) The Soil Physics Department of Rothamsted Experimental Station;

(4) The Botanical Department of Manchester University.

The Executive Committee decided to make a grant of £1,000 per annum to each Institution for a period of five years.

In addition it was decided that a sum of £2,000 should be set aside for the purpose of making grants to Institutions in aid of special pieces of research, or for contingencies over and above the amount of the grants to the four Institutions already named.

With a view to maintaining close touch in matters relating to research between the Corporation and the British Cotton Industry Research Association, a small co-ordinating Committee of the two bodies has been set up. This Committee has recommended that there should be no clear line of demarcation of the fields of research to be explored respectively by the two bodies, that a certain amount of overlapping is indeed desirable, provided that there is a free exchange of information as to the work done.

The Executive Committee have appointed a small Sub-Committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. S. Addison, to consider the advisability of the establishment by

the Corporation of a Central Research Institute in a cotton-growing country, and in the event of the establishment of such an institution being recommended, to advise as to whether the Corporation should set up their own Institute or utilise and extend the facilities already afforded by an existing institution.

It is hoped that if the Corporation decide to establish a research station abroad the botanical staffs of the station and of the Research Association would be practically interchangeable. The Corporation's workers would thus be at liberty to carry out at Didsbury, if thought desirable, research on problems that had arisen abroad, but that could be conducted more easily under non-tropical conditions, while members of the staff of the Research Association would similarly be able to put to the test under field conditions results obtained by them in the laboratory at home.

A grant of £150, equally divided between the two bodies, has been made to Professor Priestley, of Leeds University, for the continuance of a piece of research on the action of light on plant growth.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION, 1924.

It has been decided to stage a joint exhibit representative of the different growths of cotton produced in the Empire, in conjunction with the British Cotton Growing Association and the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations. The general arrangements for the whole of the Cotton Section have been undertaken by a Committee of representatives of the cotton industry entitled the "Cotton Textile Industry Committee." By thus placing the arrangements in the hands of a central authority it is hoped to make the Cotton Section fully representative of all branches of the cotton industry. The layout of the section has now been decided upon, and the Corporation's joint exhibit will form the first stand in the series of exhibits which will pass stage by stage from the raw material to the finished article.

Mr. H. S. Goldsmith, Chairman of the West African Section of the Exhibition, offered to ask the Nigerian

Government for their sanction to provide nearly 2,000 square feet of space, free of charge, in the Nigerian Section for the Corporation's joint exhibit. This offer was highly appreciated by the Executive Committee, but it was decided that it would be preferable that the Corporation's stand should form an integral part of the Cotton Section in the Main Industrial Hall.

The raw cotton exhibit will occupy some 1,750 square feet net, and it has been decided to show two bales of cotton of average quality from each of the countries in the Empire which are now producing the raw material in commercial quantities. One of these bales will illustrate the methods of baling and packing which are practised in the country where it was produced, whilst the other bale will be opened and the cotton will be available for handling by visitors to the Exhibition. In addition, small samples from these and other parts of the Empire will be shown of other growths which have already been placed upon the market, or which it is hoped to produce in commercial quantities shortly.

PERSONNEL.

It will be remembered that as soon as the Corporation received its Charter, the Council confirmed in their appointment the officers selected by the Empire Cotton Growing Committee of the Board of Trade. These included Colonel C. N. French, C.M.G., as Assistant Director. The Corporation were unable to give Colonel French a definite contract, however, for a stated period until their position was assured by the passage of the Cotton Industry Act. This having now been secured, Colonel French took up his duties on October 1st.

The Sub-Committees of the Corporation include among their members experts in various subjects, who are not members of the Corporation. The presence of these members has been of the greatest possible assistance to those Sub-Committees, and the Council welcome this opportunity of expressing the thanks due to them for the ungrudging assistance given in the consideration of the many matters referred to them for their advice. It is hoped that it will not be considered invidious if the thanks of the Corporation are tendered

in particular to the experts who have thus assisted them by serving on the Research and Training Sub-Committee. Members of this body have been called together on many occasions in the past year, and in view of their numerous activities in other directions the Corporation desire to recognise the heavy debt of gratitude that they owe to those members for having thus placed their time and expert knowledge at the disposal of the Corporation.

THE EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the period from 1st January, 1922, to 31st March, 1923.

To STAFF ABROAD—SALARIES AND TRAVELLING EXPENSES.	£	s.	d.	By Interest and Dividends from Capital Grant	£	s.	d.
Tanganyika	2,042	3	0½	Capital Grant	...	...	...
Nyasaland	1,033	1	11	" Sale of Reports	...	...	...
Australia	571	4	3		...	...	...
South Africa	1,219	10	3		...	...	...
Studentships							
" Research Work Expenses	...	...	...				
" Office Staff Salaries	...	...	...				
" Rent and Upkeep of Offices	...	...	...				
" Travelling Expenses, Corporation and Staff	...	...	...				
" Legal and Accountancy Charges	...	...	...				
" Printing, Stationery and Office Expenses	...	...	...				
" Postages and Sundries	...	...	...				
" Depreciation of Furniture and Fittings	...	...	...				
" Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure for the 15 months	...	...	...				
	£36,012	4	7				

BALANCE SHEET, 31st March, 1923.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL GRANT from Imperial Government	978,715	0	0	Furniture and Fittings at Cost	...	...	...
COTTON LEVY—				Less Depreciation to date	...	...	...
Amount received to 31st December, 1921	9,924	18	6				
Amount received 15 months to 31st March, 1923	64,582	0	5	INVESTMENTS AT COST—			
Interest on Investments and Bank Balance representing the Cotton Levy	1,402	8	1	Capital Grant	...	...	...
Sundry Creditors				Cotton Levy	...	...	...
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.				Surplus Revenue	...	...	...
Excess of Income over Expenditure 15 months ended 31st March, 1923	18,554	19	2	Williams Deacons Bank—Cotton Levy	...	...	...
Less Balance at 31st December, 1921	5,310	9	8	Do. Current Account	...	...	...
				British Overseas Bank	...	...	...
				Cash in hand—London and Abroad	...	...	...
				Sundry Debtors	...	...	...
	£1,068,728	1	3				

We have audited the above Balance Sheet and the Revenue and Expenditure Account and certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with. We report to the members that in our opinion the Accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Corporation's affairs as shown by the books of the Corporation. The securities held by the Corporation have been verified and were found in order.

DAVID SMITH, GARNET & CO.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, MANCHESTER.

13th April, 1923.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

Estimate of the Corporation's commitments for the year April 1st, 1923--
March 31st, 1924, as prepared in June, 1923.

STAFF ABROAD :—

Tanganyika—Salaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,085
Nyasaland do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,100
Queensland do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,500
Incidentals for the three above countries (say)	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
Travelling for the three above countries (say)	...	...	...	...	...	...	750
							£6,735

STAFF AT HEAD OFFICE :—

Salaries (present figure)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,025
Travelling—Members of Corporation and of staff at home (£960 in 1922/23)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000
Rent, Insurance, Lighting and Household Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	835
Printing and Stationery (£350 in 1922/23)	...	...	...	...	...	...	450
Postages, etc. (£166 in 1922/23)	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Audit expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	95

STUDENTSHIPS :—

Twelve at £250	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000
Travelling (eight to Trinidad or elsewhere, four in England)	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
Books—Grants to twelve students at £25 each	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
Mr. Engledow's fee	...	...	...	...	...	...	100

RESEARCH—WEST INDIES.

Grant to West Indian Agricultural College	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
Mr. Burd's Salary	...	...	...	...	...	...	600
Assistants' wages and incidental expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	200

UNIVERSITIES :—

Retaining grants for investigations on behalf of the Corporation and for acting as consultants to their Agriculturists abroad, four at £1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,000
<i>Ad hoc</i> research grants, total, £2,000—this year, say	...	...	...	...	...	...	800

INDIAN CENTRAL COTTON COMMITTEE :—

Mr. Roberts' travelling expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
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SOUTH AFRICA :—

Cotton Prizes	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
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UGANDA :—

Provision of Ploughs	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
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EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

REPORT OF THE SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Corporation was held at the offices, Millbank House, Westminster, on Wednesday, October 10th, 1923.

In the unavoidable absence of the President of the Corporation (The President of the Board of Trade), the Chair was taken by The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Derby, K.G., President of the Administrative Council.

The Secretary read a letter from Sir P. Lloyd-Greame, President of the Board of Trade, saying : " I very much regret that owing to the fact that the Economic Conference will be in session on October 10th, it is not possible for me to take the chair at the annual general meeting of the Corporation. I should like to congratulate the Corporation on the record of work shown in the draft report which will be before the Corporation on that date. The position of the cotton industry to-day, which has been a matter of grave concern to the Government, emphasises more than ever the vital importance of the task which the Corporation has undertaken and the need for the fullest co-operation between all the interests concerned to secure a rapid extension of cotton-growing within the Empire, which will be to the benefit, not merely to this country, but to the Empire as a whole."

[*The Reports of the Speeches are reprinted by permission of the
"Liverpool Daily Post."*]

THE EARL OF DERBY : It now falls to me to move the adoption of the report, and I have to claim your indulgence if I leave you before that report, as I hope it will be, is adopted. You will, I am sure, understand that at the present moment I am not entirely my own master, and that, with the Conference that is going on, even the best laid plans are sometimes upset. Now, if I have learned one thing during the time I have had the honour to be not only your president, but the president of what I may call your forbear, the British Cotton Growing Association, it is that one should not attempt to deal in any detail with matters which one imperfectly understands in the presence of those who are experts in the matter. I shall confine myself to more general remarks than will probably be made by others assembled in this room.

We cannot hide the fact nor disguise our knowledge of the fact that the cotton industry in Lancashire at the present moment is going through the worst time it has experienced since the cotton famine. Nobody can read the report of a meeting that was held recently at Manchester without seeing what dangers there are besetting the cotton industry and what a critical time it is through which it is passing. There would appear to be in that report hardly a ray of light, and yet to me there is not only a ray, but a great light, and that is that in dealing with this question you are all, employers and employed, tackling together a difficult situation with courage and with determination to pull through in the best way that you can. That is a matter which must be extremely encouraging to all connected with the cotton industry. It would, however, to my mind, be a mistaken kindness to let the cotton industry believe that we in this Corporation and the British Cotton Growing Association as well, while doing our best for the industry, can perform miracles and that anything that we can do can be of immediate advantage.

When I took over, as I did some years ago, the presidency of the British Cotton Growing Association, I did so with no false feeling that I had any knowledge of the subject, but I was imbued with the spirit of Sir Alfred Jones, who, foreseeing what the future of cotton-growing would be, and endeavouring to take time by the forelock, considered whether we could not, within the bounds of our great Empire, do something to help the future of the cotton industry. This Corporation, with Government assistance and with the assistance now given to it by the Levy Act passed this year, will undoubtedly, in my opinion, be able to do much for the cotton industry in the future. But it can only be in the future, and it can only be to the future that we can look for good results, and increasingly good results, from the work which we now have in hand.

We cannot disguise from ourselves that at the present moment there is a shortage of raw material—a shortage which, although good harvests may from time to time decrease it, is a shortage which, as far as America is concerned, will have to be made good if the industry is to continue in its old way, basing itself upon cheap raw material. We have many influences at work to prevent this increase from America. You have got not only the increasing demand of America itself for its own raw material, but you have got the decrease of production in that country of the raw material. You have also got the devastation of the boll weevil, for which, I believe, up to now, human science has not been able to find a remedy. We shall, therefore, in the future have to look more and more to other fields for the obtaining of this raw material, and without going in any way into the thorny and difficult subject of Colonial Preference, which is now exercising the Conference in London, I think there is not a man in this room who will not agree that anything that we can possibly do to extend the growing of cotton in our **great** Dominions beyond the seas must be not only of **advantage** to

them, but also of the greatest possible advantage to England and, if I may say so, the Lancashire cotton industry in particular (hear, hear).

Do not let us think that the whole of our Dominions are able to produce cotton at a word. It is not a question so much of difficulties of growing but a question of climatic influences, not only on the plant itself, but on the labour which works in the collection of that plant. There is no doubt whatever that climatic reasons alone will in many districts prevent the employment of white labour, and it is to native labour that we must look in the main in many parts of our Empire for the cultivation of cotton. Anything we can possibly do, therefore, to increase the production by natives themselves or by natives under the superintendence of white men is all to the good. But we have to be careful of another thing, and that is that in encouraging the native to produce cotton we shall not only encourage him to produce cotton, but to produce the best kind of cotton. It is no use their producing an inferior article. That is all to the bad rather than to the good, and it ought to be, and I think it will be, the endeavour of this Corporation to place in the hands of native cultivators, wherever they may be, that seed from which the best cotton can be obtained and then it will be the province and the duty of this Corporation to see that the superintendence of that cotton is placed in the hands of capable men who will realise that the placing of bad cotton on the market from any particular district is not only detrimental to that district but will create a prejudice against it in years to come. There is a very plain duty imposed on this Corporation. I venture to think that this Corporation, recognising its responsibility, is ready to do all it possibly can to assist in the growing of native cotton in all parts of our Dominions.

Believe me, that if there is one thing more than another which we ought to try and make the people of this country realise it is how dependent we have been in the past on America

for a supply of cotton and how dependent we ought to be in the future, not on America but on our Dominions beyond the seas. That is the propaganda work that has to fall on all of us. I venture to hope that you will do your best to make the country see the necessity for it, and that this Corporation in its turn will do its best to second your efforts.

Now, gentlemen, there is little in the report that does not speak for itself. But there is a question which is, if I may so call it, more or less of an administrative kind—that is, how to deal with the Cotton Levy which Parliament has this year authorised to be made on the industry. On this point I have been in consultation with Sir James Currie, and I venture, in order that there may be no mistake as to it being not only my private opinion but also the settled opinion of the Executive, to hope that you will allow me to read to you what I should suggest for dealing with this particular levy and the way in which it should be collected. Concrete plans for developing the cotton-growing possibilities of the Empire had necessarily to await the passage into law of the Cotton Industry Act, which took place in July last. It was hoped that the levy might have become effective nearly two years ago, but owing to reasons touched on by me in my speech last year these proved to be impossible, and the passage of an Act of Parliament was required.

In view of the seriousness of the present situation with regard to the present supply of raw material, it is most regrettable that valuable time has thus been lost. I would, however, like to say just one word of extreme gratitude to those firms and those individuals who, without waiting for the Act, came forward voluntarily to assist us (hear, hear). Fortunately, however, thanks to the generosity of the Government in handing over their grant to the Corporation without waiting for the levy to become an accomplished fact, the Corporation have been able to start their work, though,

naturally, upon a very restricted scale. Until the Corporation's existence for at least five years ahead was assured no far-reaching plans could be made, and any comprehensive scheme for development by hand-to-mouth expedient is not only useless, but, to my mind, would have been extremely detrimental to our proposals.

One essential preliminary remains to be disposed of, and that is the setting up of machinery for the collection of contributions from spinners imposed by the Act. It is a feature of the Act that it refrains from introducing, as far as possible, any form of Government interference with the trade (hear, hear), and I feel that probably most of you will say "Thank Heaven for that." It is specifically left to the Corporation to devise the machinery required to collect the levy, and this being so, the active and willing co-operation of all branches concerned is absolutely essential. The collection of the former voluntary levy through members of the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations worked well, and the mere fact that the sums collected by this means amounted to about two-thirds of what would have been obtained from a compulsory levy naturally encourages the Corporation to ask the two Associations to help them by making this system the basis of the method that will be adopted for the collection of statutory, as opposed to voluntary payments.

Nevertheless, the fact cannot be ignored that by this system alone certain sources of leakage cannot be prevented, and unless those sources are detected and stopped those spinners who are paying through their brokers the contributions which are now required by law will feel that they are placed at a disadvantage. You will always have some people who will try and escape from their obligations. It is your duty, everyone of you who is meeting his obligations, to help this Corporation here to collect the sums in their entirety so that there is no evasion.

It is for the Corporation to see that no spinners have grounds for a grievance under this head, and for this purpose they must depend on the assistance of the two Cotton Associations and their members to provide them with any particulars that they may need to enable them to trace any spinners who may be inclined to evade their legal obligation. From the point of view of self interest alone—and that is the last thing I should like to appeal to—this assistance should be readily forthcoming. Brokers and spinners suffer equally from a shortage of raw material, and the Corporation should, therefore, be able to rely on their aid in the steps that they are taking to safeguard supplies.

There are only two obvious ways in which the payments can be made by spinners (1) through their brokers, which is the course that nearly all have chosen, as Mr. Jackson will explain; (2) direct to the Corporation. In the case of those in the former category, which represent the very great majority of the mills, collection should be easy, seeing that it is understood that the brokers will add the sums payable on account of the levy to the invoices for raw cotton. But, as mentioned above, it is not the collection of the greater part of the levy that will call for the serious attention of the Corporation so much as ensuring that no cotton on which the levy is payable escapes the charge. This is important, not on account of the sum of money involved, but to secure that all spinners alike are treated with fairness. An appeal is therefore made, and I make it with all earnestness to you present, to notify the Corporation of any cases of default that may come under your notice in order that the Corporation may take such steps as are authorised under the Act. No doubt objections may be raised. They always are raised, but action of this kind should be looked on as a duty imposed on all on account of the freedom of the trade from Government control, which has only been secured in the Act by recognition of the willingness of all to secure its equitable working.

There is no other instance, that I know, of a charge enforceable by law being collected without the employment of Government officials, and in order that this state of things may continue the Corporation must be able to rely on all the assistance they require in the direction indicated, and especially from all of you present. A certain amount of cotton is, of course, bought by mills through other channels than through members of the two Cotton Associations, and a committee is shortly to be set up by the Corporation to devise a method for ensuring that this cotton also pays the levy. When effective steps have been devised to ensure this, spinners should be assured that the Act is working with fairness in all cases.

Those are the proposals that I wish to make to you, and to which I hope you will agree. I have only one other word to say in conclusion. You have done me a great honour in making me your president. I do not pretend for one moment that I can take any daily part in the work of this body, but I can assure you I have its interest very deeply at heart, and anything that I can possibly do to assist it in its work is at the disposal of the executive.

I believe in the future we shall see the whole of our cotton coming from our own Dominions. I believe that we shall thus secure cheaper cotton, cheaper raw materials for the use of our British manufacturers. I also believe that in doing that we shall be supplying a market for our own people beyond the seas, and that the money that they obtain for their cotton may to a great extent be spent in making purchases from the mother country. It is an ideal for which we all ought to work, that the money obtained from us should in a different form come back to this country. When we are able to do that we shall be able to feel we are really, though separated by thousands of miles, an Empire united and strong.

I venture to think that this Corporation at the present moment in a matter which is outside criticism may be able

to do much to bring closer and closer the great Dominions and the Mother Country. Although the present generation may not see any great return, though it will be a growing return, for the work that is now being done, future generations of those engaged in the great cotton industry of this country will look back upon these days of pioneer work as having been the days when a true foundation was laid for the cotton industry, the greatest industry with the exception of one in our Mother Country and one which, if it fails or if it decreases in prosperity will not only have an effect on that industry itself but will affect the whole welfare of the British Islands. I must now ask you to excuse me because I have to proceed to Lancashire, but, before leaving, you will let me propose, in conviction that we are on the right lines, the adoption of the Report of the Council and ask for your kind consideration and your unanimous support of that Report (cheers).

MR. JACKSON (Chairman of the Council), having taken the chair vacated by Lord Derby, seconded the adoption of the Report. In connection with the Levy he wished to say that over two-thirds of the spinning trade had already signified their wish to pay through merchants or brokers. Only eight firms had so far wanted to pay in the other way. The time for receiving replies had not yet come to an end, and he expected that before the next meeting of the Executive they would have practically the whole replying in the same way.

With regard to the action taken in the several cotton-growing areas mentioned in the Report, they welcomed those members of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, who were present that day. There was no doubt that the Indian Committee had already accomplished some valuable work on which the Corporation congratulated them, and he thought it likely that they would do even more valuable work as time went on. Compared with a few years ago, they were getting cotton from India more suited to Lancashire's requirements. It was coming in increasing quantities.

Regarding Australia, it was believed that good cotton could be grown, especially in Queensland. It was gratifying to have the reports which they had received from several sources, that the expert appointed by the Corporation had been able to give considerable help to the Queensland Government. The supply available was limited, but with an increase in population they might expect more later.

South Africa had been under the consideration of the Executive Committee almost continuously and considerable developments were to be expected in the near future. General Smuts had arranged to receive a deputation from the Corporation on October 25th. The South African Committee would wait upon him and put the case for South Africa in regard to transport, &c., fully. Production in South Africa for the last two or three years had only been from 2,500 to 3,000 bales, but they expected that to be doubled this year and they thought there was an immediate prospect of a considerable increase. He took the opportunity however of warning members of the Council that it would need many years of patient work before the hope expressed recently by General Smuts could be realised, namely, that the export of cotton from South Africa would equal in value their wool export, seeing that at the present price of cotton this would require an annual output of about half a million bales. It was a long way to go from 3,000 to 500,000, although there were possibilities. He had seen the cotton and had interviewed the spinners who used it, and it was satisfactory for Lancashire's requirements.

The Sudan was a district in which they had taken a big interest since the inception of the Corporation, and some of their friends wanted to know what the Corporation had done. If they took the record of what the Corporation had done in the Sudan alone during the last two years they would find something of which the Corporation might well be proud. When they came into existence the scheme for the development

of the Gezira was practically derelict and all of the money available had been spent. The increased cost was causing the Sudan Government difficulties, and there was a fear that the work would have to be abandoned. They and the British Cotton Growing Association, with Lord Derby, their president, interviewed Lord Balfour, with the result that the work went on and they were to-day assured that ample funds were provided for the completion of the work.

In Tanganyika, the prospects were hopeful, but transport was extremely difficult. They had an expert out there, and the Corporation had offered to assist the Government with £5,000 during the present year for the expansion of the Agricultural department. This arrangement was in course of negotiation, and he thought that shortly they would be able to report that they had got a move on in Tanganyika. In Nyasaland they were also spending money, and the reports from the Government there showed that their expert there was doing good work. At present he was in the United States of America visiting the chief experiment stations in the cotton belt, but was expected back in Nyasaland shortly. In Nigeria steady progress was being made. They hoped to be able to work out a scheme for giving financial assistance towards extending the agricultural department there also. Some difficulty was being experienced in arriving at a suitable arrangement, but he desired to reiterate that to give block grants to departments of agriculture was against the settled policy of the Executive, and that, while they desired to meet the views of particular Dependencies, the presence of a senior accredited agent to report to them on the working of details was an essential factor in any scheme.

The Corporation in conjunction with the British Cotton Growing Association, the Liverpool Cotton Association, and the Manchester Cotton Association, were hoping to hold a comprehensive exhibit of raw cotton from all cotton-growing parts of the Empire at Wembley.

Further, it had been decided to issue a quarterly journal dealing with the activities of the Corporation. It was hoped that the first number would appear in January.

The report was then adopted.

MR. ARTHUR FOSTER, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved :—That Messrs. David Smith, Garnett and Co. be appointed auditors for the current year. In view of the uncertainty of the amount of work that would be involved in the audit, the Executive Committee suggested that they should be authorised to settle the question of the fee to be paid for the audit, and he moved that the remuneration of the auditors be fixed at such sum as might be determined after the audit by the Executive Committee. It was, Mr. Foster proceeded, impossible at present for the auditors to estimate the amount of work that would be required. They were anxious that the audit should be done in the fullest possible manner, and it was only after that had been done that adequate remuneration could be fixed. He proposed that this be adopted.

The resolution was carried.

NYASALAND :—

Cotton Experiment Farm, Corporation's share, capital expenditure, £1,087; recurring expenditure, £600 a year (this year, say, £1,087+£300) £1,387

Assistant Entomologist at £500 and Second Assistant Cotton Specialist at £450. This year, half their salaries+passages ... 775

£27,372

The above items are more or less known. The following refer to proposals still under consideration. If adopted, the proportion of the estimated expenditure that will be incurred in the first year cannot at present be foretold with any degree of accuracy.

TANGANYIKA :—

Scheme for expanding Agricultural Department (£5,000 a year)—
for the first year, say £3,000
First Assistant's passage home and out again 200
Salary of Second Assistant (half only this year+passage) 350

NIGERIA :—

Scheme for expanding Agricultural Department (£12,000 a year),
for the first year, say 6,000
Cotton Colonies, say two at £300 600

EMPIRE EXHIBITION, 1924 :—

Expenditure incurred before Exhibition opens, say 2,500

JOURNAL :—

Salary of Editor, payment of contributors, printing and postage,
say 1,000

£13,650

Estimated net income from Government Grant after payment of Income Tax, £40,000.

